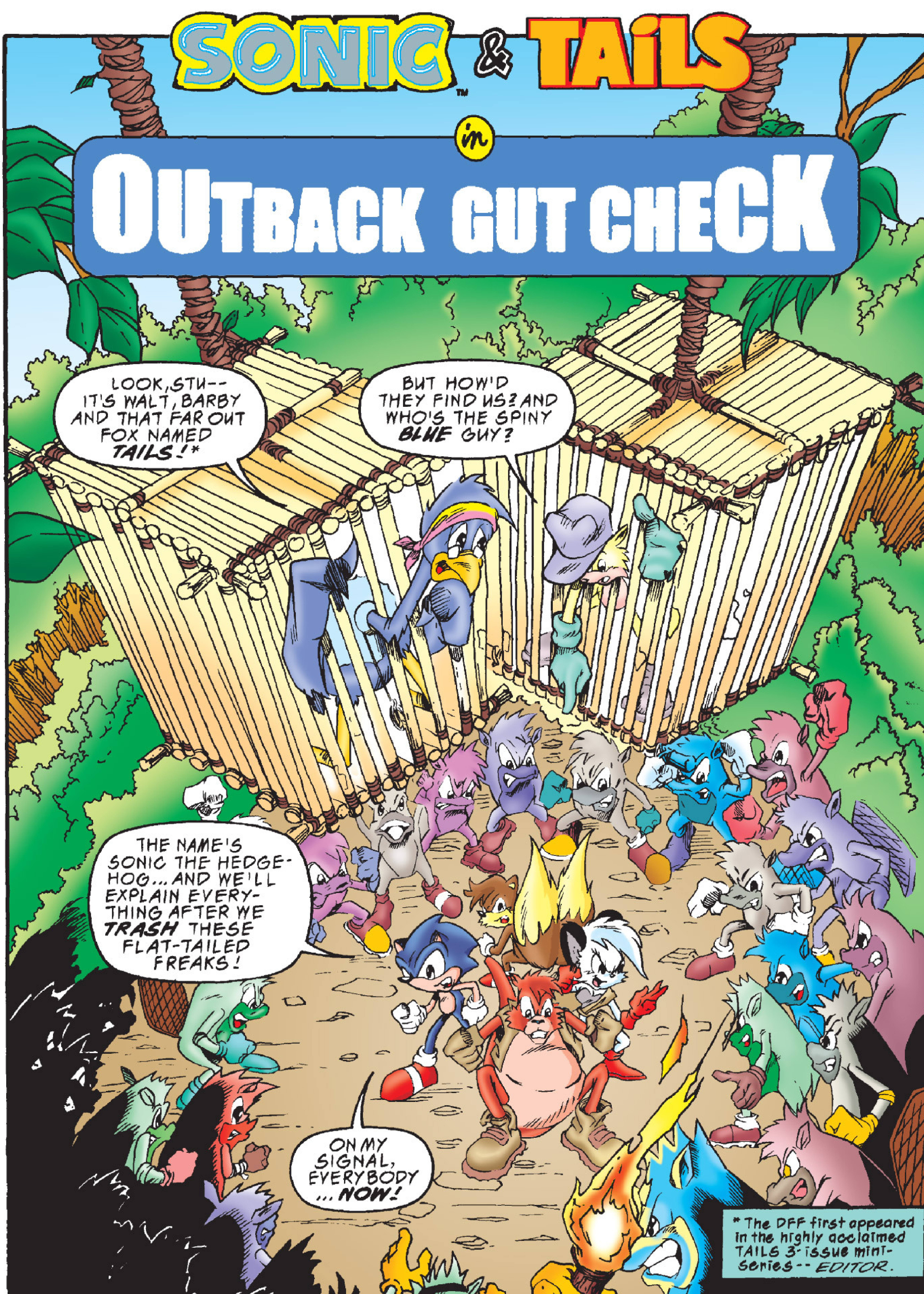
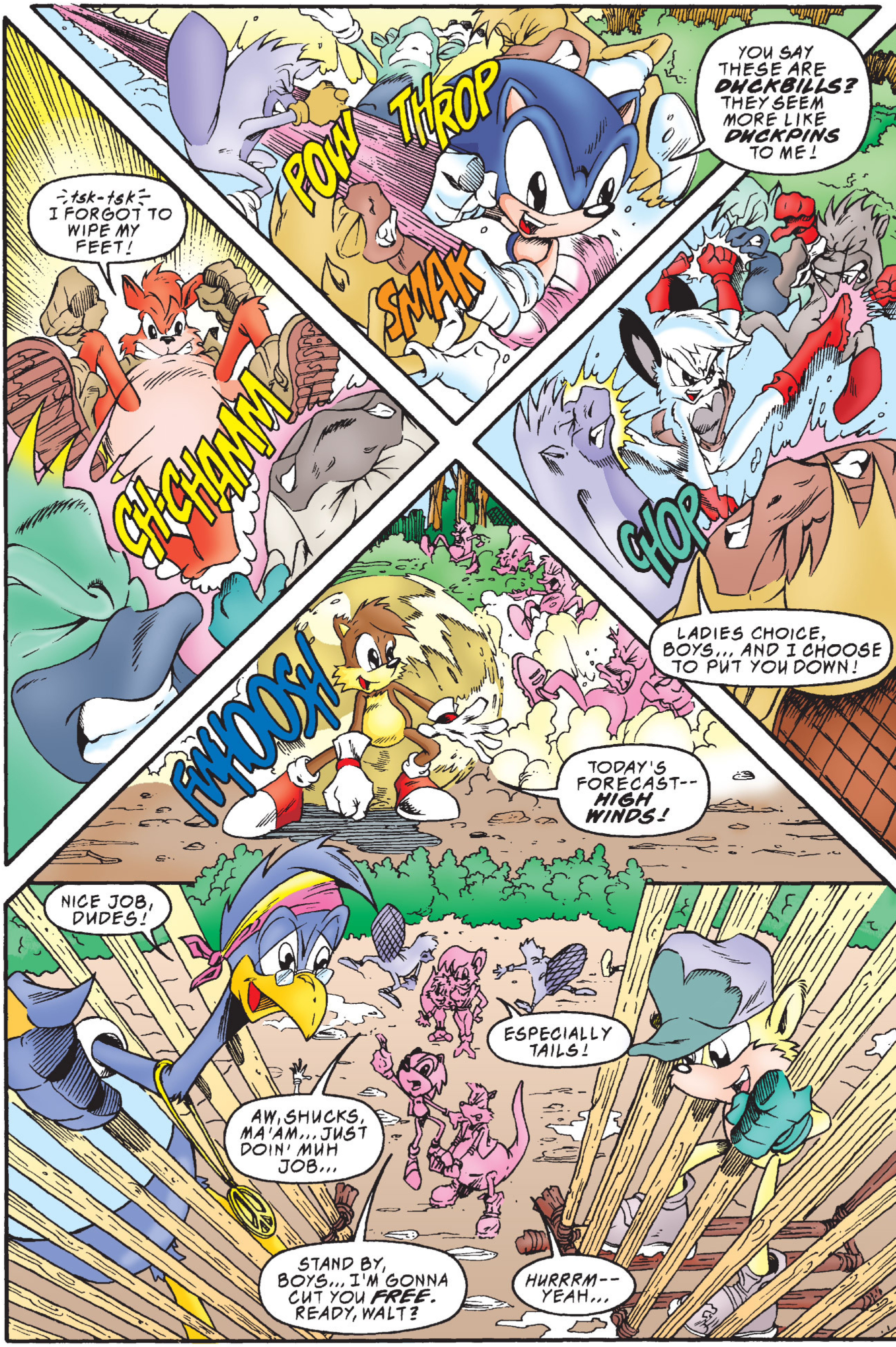
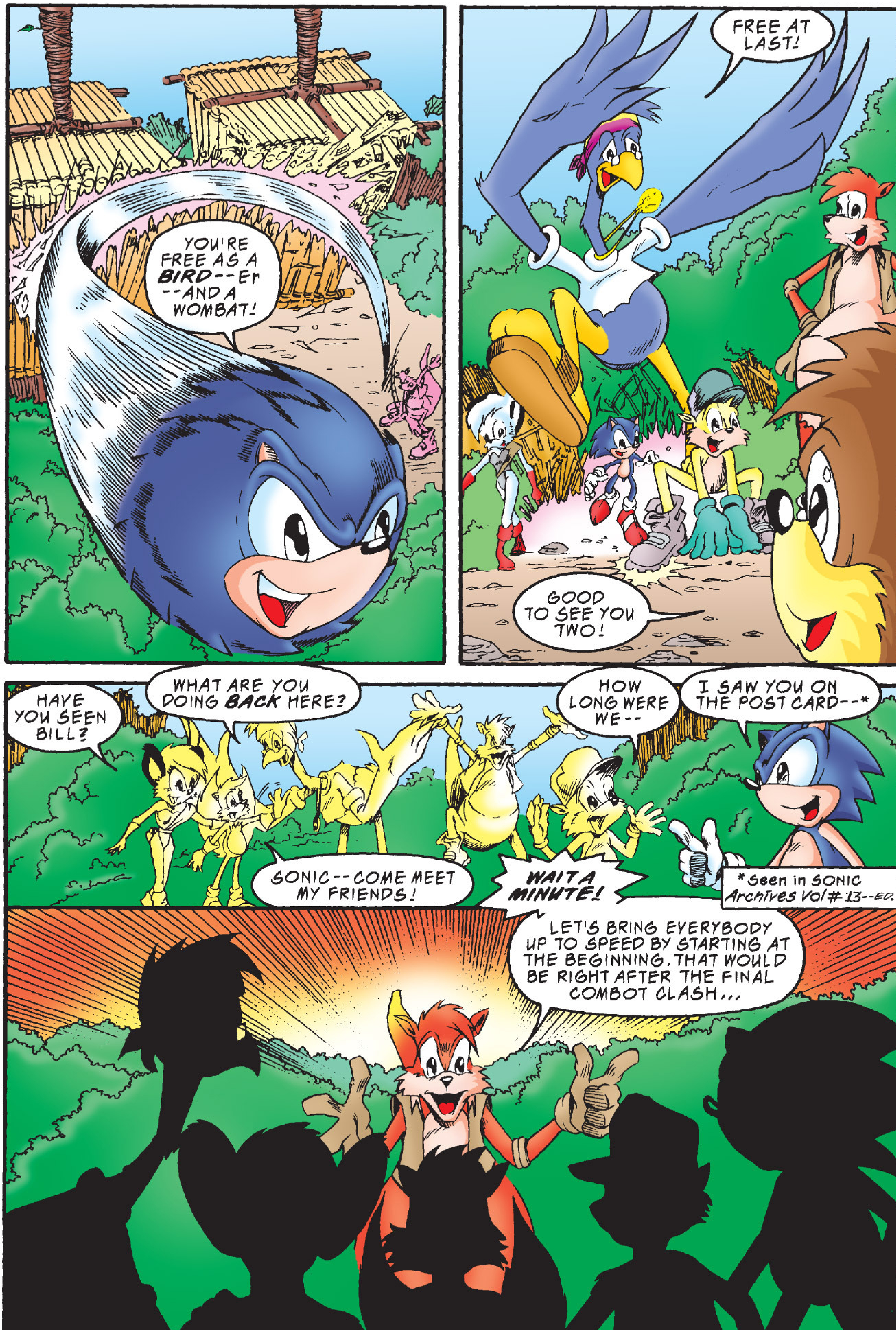

Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.61
JULY
US $1.75
CAN $1.85
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
DANGER IN DOWNUNDA!
SPAZ
HARVO



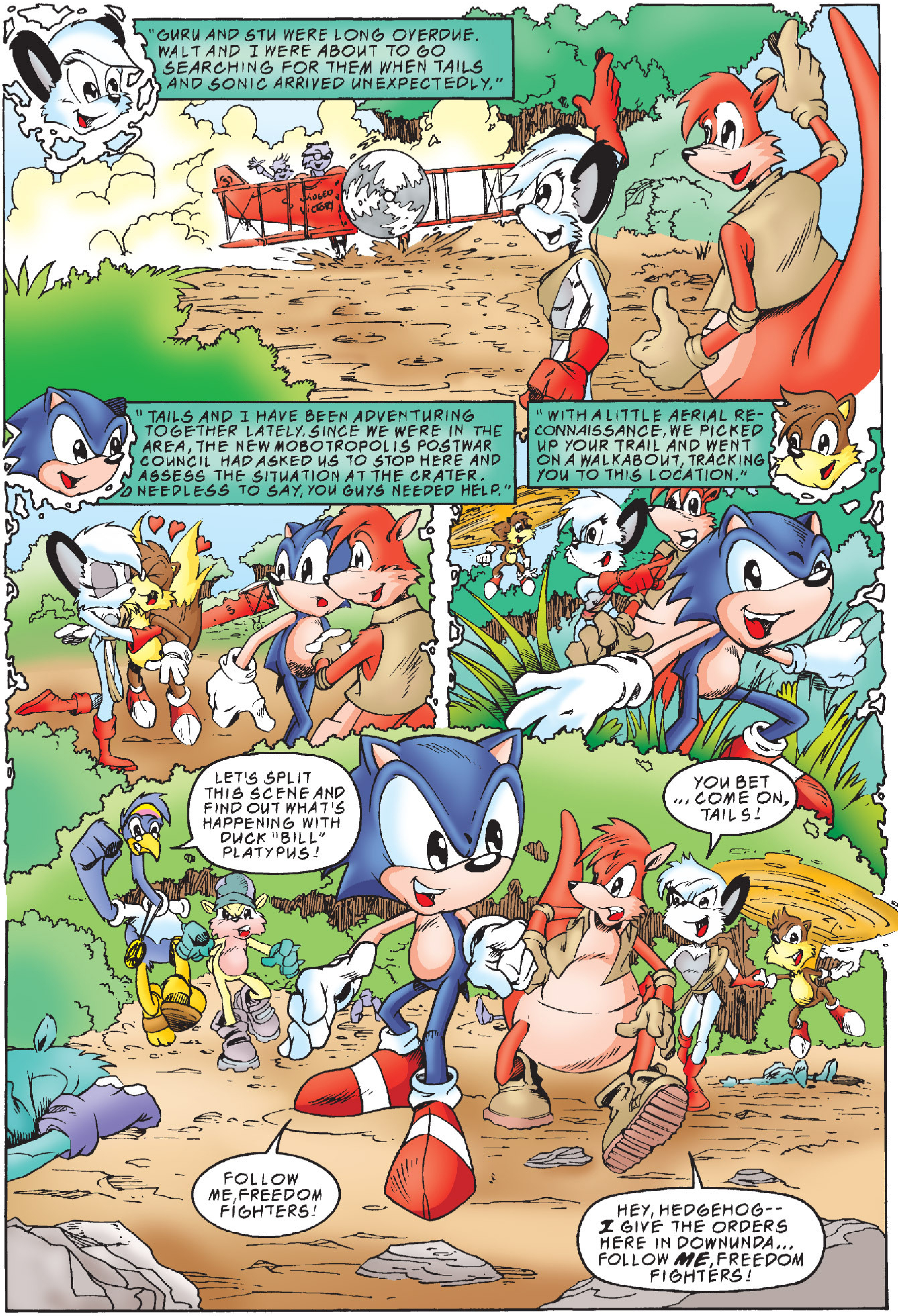
WRITER: MIKE GALLAGHER ARTIST: HARVO MERCADOOCASIO COLORIST: FRANK GAGLIARDO LETTERER: JEFF POWELL EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE MNG. EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER


POW
THROP
YOU SAY THESE ARE DUCKBILLS? THEY SEEM MORE LIKE DUCKPINS TO ME!
SMAK
-tsk-tsk- I FORGOT TO WIPE MY FEET!
CH-CHAMM
CHOP
LADIES CHOICE, BOYS... AND I CHOOSE TO PUT YOU DOWN!
FWHOOSH
TODAY'S FORECAST-- HIGH WINDS!
NICE JOB, DUDES!
ESPECIALLY TAILS!
AW, SHUCKS, MA'AM... JUST DOIN' MUH JOB...
STAND BY, BOYS... I'M GONNA CUT YOU FREE. READY, WALT?
HURRRM-- YEAH...


YOU'RE FREE AS A BIRD--Er --AND A WOMBAT!
FREE AT LAST!
GOOD TO SEE YOU TWO!
HAVE YOU SEEN BILL?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?
HOW LONG WERE WE--
I SAW YOU ON THE POST CARD--*
SONIC--COME MEET MY FRIENDS!
WAIT A MINUTE!
*Seen in SONIC Archives Vol #13--ED.
LET'S BRING EVERYBODY UP TO SPEED BY STARTING AT THE BEGINNING. THAT WOULD BE RIGHT AFTER THE FINAL COMBOT CLASH...


"AS WE TOLD YOU ON THE POST CARD WE SENT AFTER YOUR FRIENDS BUNNIE RABBOT AND ANTOINE D'COOLETTE STOWED AWAY ON ROBOTNIK'S SUPPLY BLIMP, OUR FINAL BATTLE WENT WELL.*
*SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 13
"CROCBOT'S ARMY OF COMBOTS WAS DESTROYED. ALTHOUGH WE DIDN'T RECOVER OUR OLD ENEMY'S ENTIRE BODY, WE FOUND ENOUGH PIECES OF HIM TO ASSUME HE WAS GONE FOR GOOD."
"THE MASSIVE CLEANUP OF THE CRATER BEGAN. WE WERE DETERMINED TO REMOVE ALL TRACES OF THE PRISON CAMP AND RETURN IT TO PRISTINE CON-DITION. AT FIRST THINGS WENT WELL..."
"BUT THEN, FOR NO APPARENT REASON, DUCK 'BILL' PLATYPUS SUDDENLY TOOK OFF AND WENT RENEGADE! IT WAS TOTALLY UNCOOL."

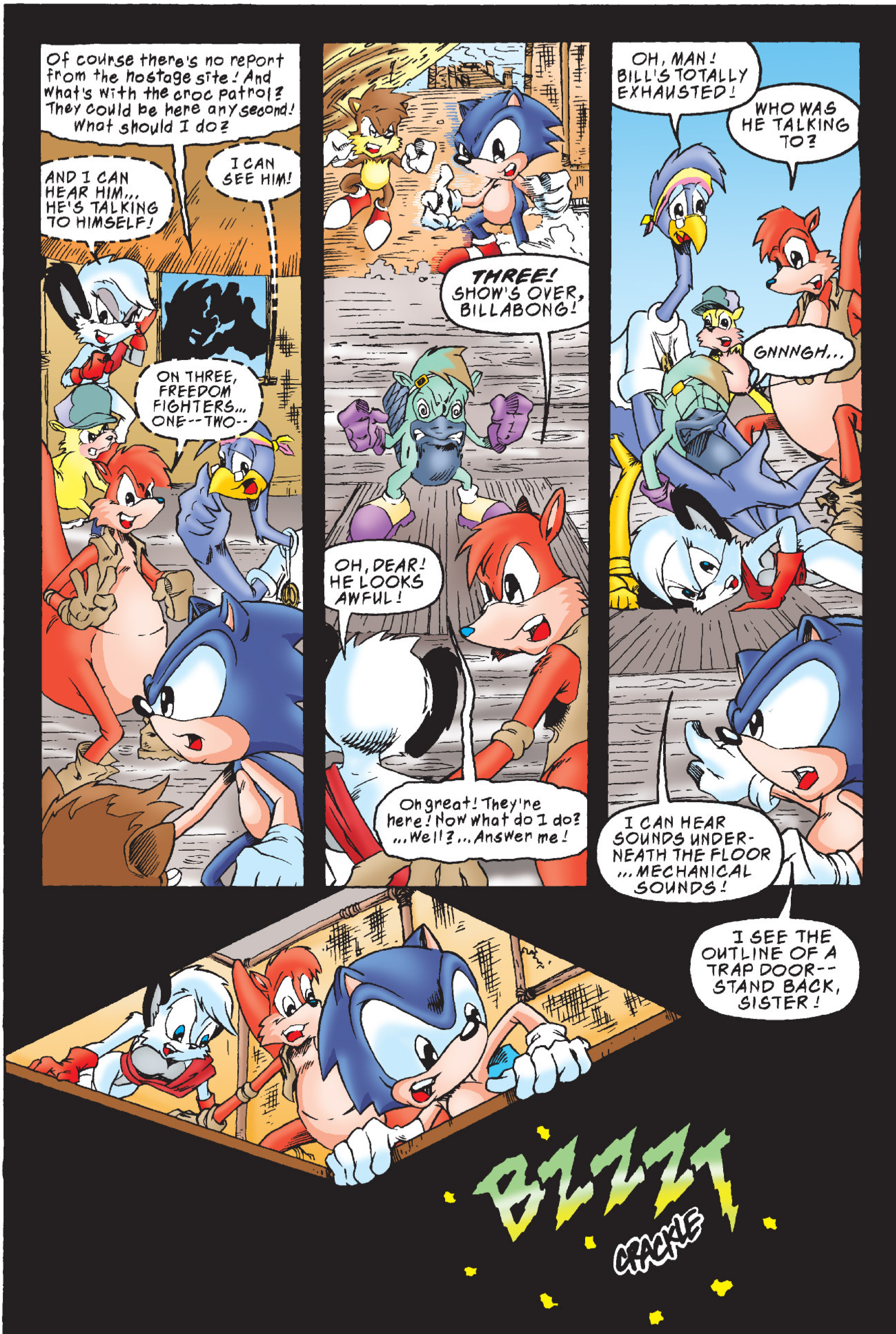

"NOT LONG AFTER THAT, THE RAIDS BEGAN. OUR FORMER TEAMMATE WAS SEEN LEADING A GUERILLA BAND OF WILD DUCKBILLS. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THEY ATTACKED THE CRATER SITE, RUINING OUR RECONSTRUCTION JOB."
"OUR VOLUNTEER WORK FORCE BEGAN TO QUIT. THE SITUATION WAS TOO DANGEROUS, SO I SHUT THE PROJECT DOWN."
CLOSED
"SOON, WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM BILL, ASKING GURU AND I TO MEET HIM HERE IN THE OUTBACK. HE SAID HE WAS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE HOSTILITIES. AFTER DISCUSSING IT, WE AGREED TO GO."
"BUT HIS OFFER WAS MEGA-BOGUS! WE WERE AMBUSHED AND COOPED UP IN THOSE CAGES YOU JUST FREED US FROM!"


"GURU AND STU WERE LONG OVERDUE. WALT AND I WERE ABOUT TO GO SEARCHING FOR THEM WHEN TAILS AND SONIC ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY."
WINGED VICTORY
"TAILS AND I HAVE BEEN ADVENTURING TOGETHER LATELY. SINCE WE WERE IN THE AREA, THE NEW MOBOTROPOLIS POSTWAR COUNCIL HAD ASKED US TO STOP HERE AND ASSESS THE SITUATION AT THE CRATER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU GUYS NEEDED HELP."
"WITH A LITTLE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, WE PICKED UP YOUR TRAIL AND WENT ON A WALKABOUT, TRACKING YOU TO THIS LOCATION."
LET'S SPLIT THIS SCENE AND FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH DUCK "BILL" PLATYPUS!
YOU BET ... COME ON, TAILS!
FOLLOW ME, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
HEY, HEDGEHOG-- I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE IN DOWNUNDA... FOLLOW ME, FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

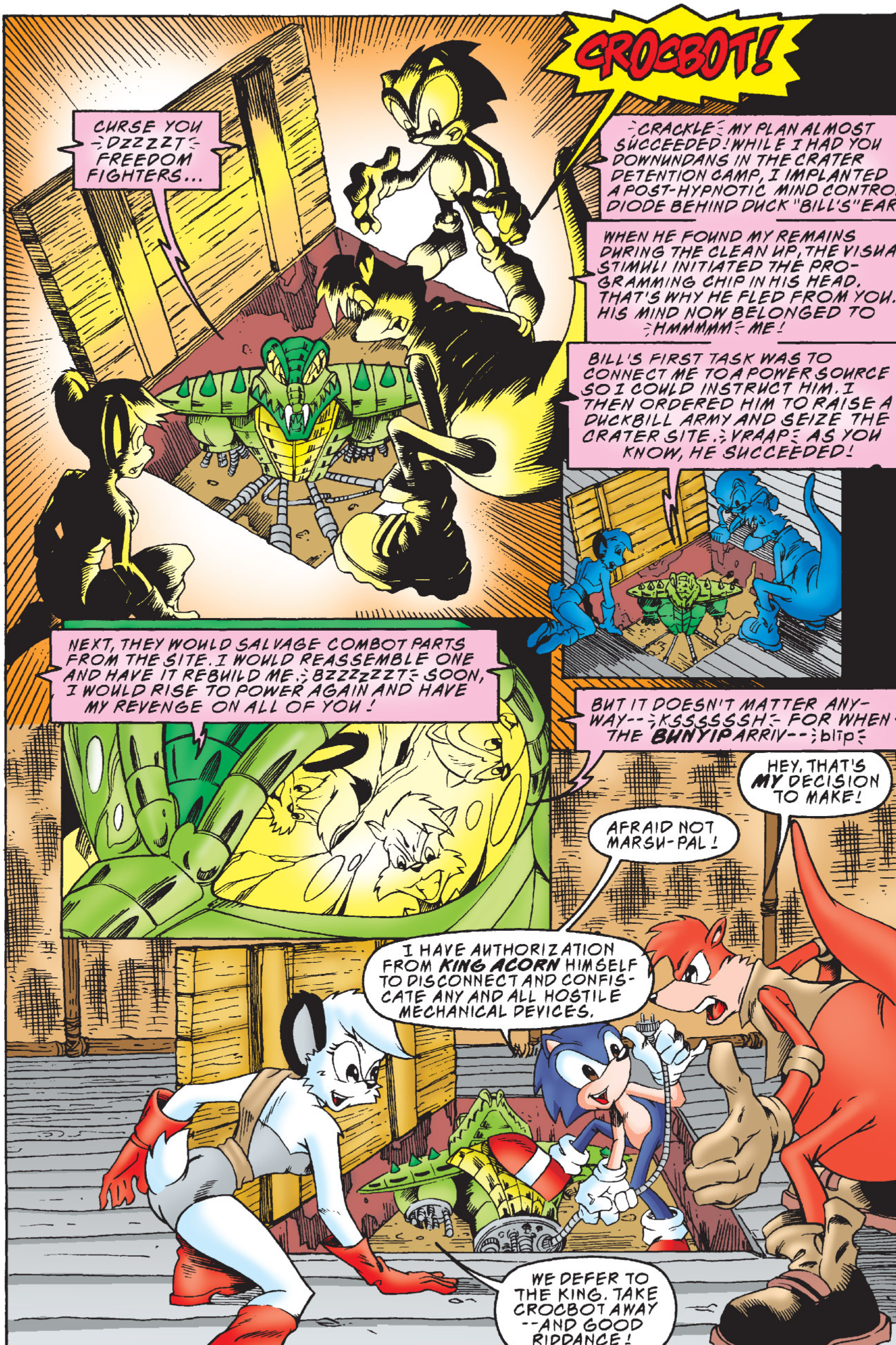

BE CAREFUL OF THE HANGING MOSS, TAILS!
HMF!
KEEP YOUR EYES FRONT AND STAY ALERT, WANNABEE!
THAT'S "WALLABEE", HEDGEHOG!
OKAY, MR. WALLABEEHEDGEHOG ...GET YOUR MIND RIGHT!
KNOCK IT OFF YOU TWO... AND HUSH! I HEARD SOME-THING!
I'LL LAND SO MY WHIRRING TAILS DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE.
SHHH... THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY...


LOOK OUT, BARBY!
WHOA! THANKS, GURU!
THWACK
YOU SLOW, GATOR BOY!
HRASHH
BOP
THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF, MAN!
WHOOUF!
LISTEN UP, LITTLE BUDDY-- YOU PROP WHILE I BUZZ THE PERIMETER!
GOTCHA, SONIC!


HANG ON, EVERYONE! I'M TAKING US FROM ZERO TO FORTY KNOTS IN 7.3 SECONDS!
WHOA! GROOVY, MAN!
IMPRESSIVE!
MEANWHILE, I'LL FORM A PROTECTIVE SHIELD TO KEEP THOSE CROCS AT BAY!
LOOK! AROUND THAT BEND--
WHOOOOSH
--THAT MUST BE DUCK "BILL'S" HIDEOUT!



Of course there's no report from the hostage site! And what's with the croc patrol? They could be here any second! What should I do?
AND I CAN HEAR HIM... HE'S TALKING TO HIMSELF!
I CAN SEE HIM!
ON THREE, FREEDOM FIGHTERS... ONE--TWO--
THREE! SHOW'S OVER, BILLABONG!
OH, DEAR! HE LOOKS AWFUL!
Oh great! They're here! Now what do I do? ...Well?...Answer me!
OH, MAN! BILL'S TOTALLY EXHAUSTED!
WHO WAS HE TALKING TO?
GNNNGH...
I CAN HEAR SOUNDS UNDER-NEATH THE FLOOR ...MECHANICAL SOUNDS!
I SEE THE OUTLINE OF A TRAP DOOR-- STAND BACK, SISTER!
BZZZT
CRACKLE

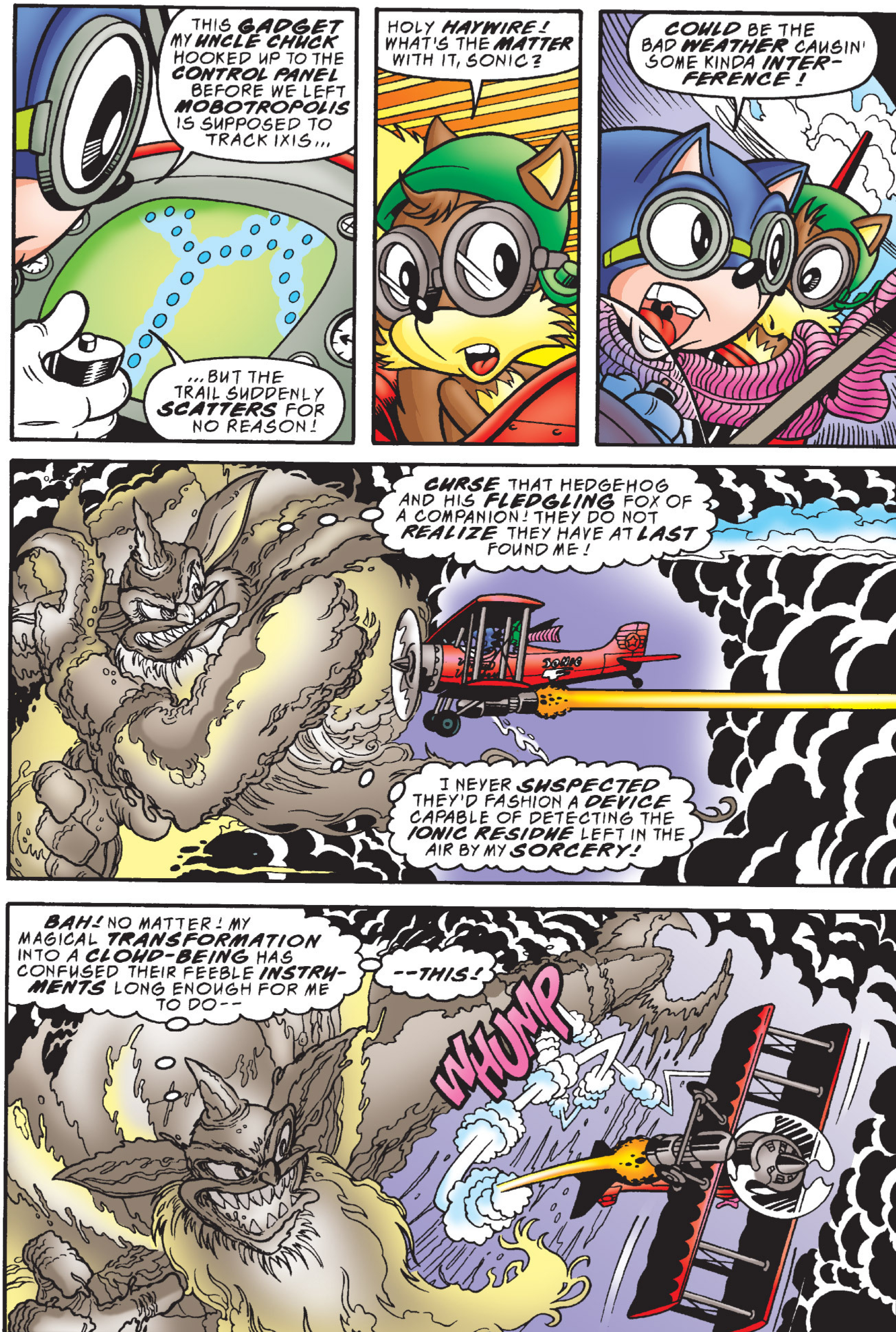

CROCBOT!
CURSE YOU ⸗DZZZZT⸗ FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
⸗CRACKLE⸗ MY PLAN ALMOST SUCCEEDED! WHILE I HAD YOU DOWNUNDANS IN THE CRATER DETENTION CAMP, I IMPLANTED A POST-HYPNOTIC MIND CONTROL DIODE BEHIND DUCK "BILL'S" EAR.
WHEN HE FOUND MY REMAINS DURING THE CLEAN UP, THE VISUAL STIMULI INITIATED THE PROGRAMMING CHIP IN HIS HEAD. THAT'S WHY HE FLED FROM YOU. HIS MIND NOW BELONGED TO ⸗HMMMMM⸗ ME!
BILL'S FIRST TASK WAS TO CONNECT ME TO A POWER SOURCE SO I COULD INSTRUCT HIM. I THEN ORDERED HIM TO RAISE A DUCKBILL ARMY AND SEIZE THE CRATER SITE. ⸗VRAAP⸗ AS YOU KNOW, HE SUCCEEDED!
NEXT, THEY WOULD SALVAGE COMBOT PARTS FROM THE SITE. I WOULD REASSEMBLE ONE AND HAVE IT REBUILD ME. ⸗BZZZZZZT⸗ SOON, I WOULD RISE TO POWER AGAIN AND HAVE MY REVENGE ON ALL OF YOU!
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY-- ⸗KSSSSSSH⸗ FOR WHEN THE BUNYIP ARRIV-- ⸗blip⸗
HEY, THAT'S MY DECISION TO MAKE!
AFRAID NOT MARSU-PAL!
I HAVE AUTHORIZATION FROM KING ACORN HIMSELF TO DISCONNECT AND CONFISCATE ANY AND ALL HOSTILE MECHANICAL DEVICES.
WE DEFER TO THE KING. TAKE CROCBOT AWAY --AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

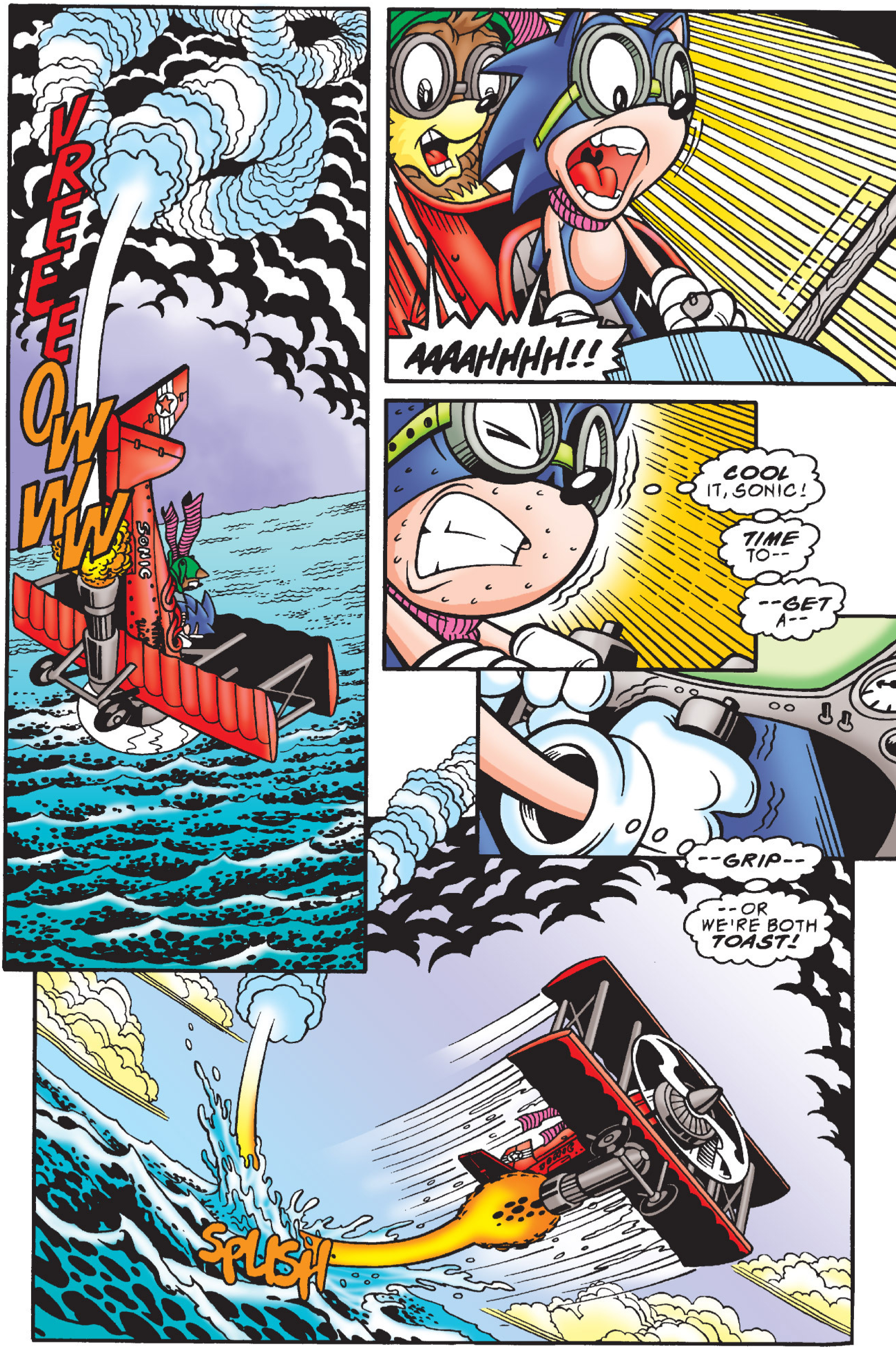

CIAO, DUDES! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!
I'LL MISS YOU, TAILS! Mmmwah!
SO LONG! KEEP IN TOUCH!
I'M GLAD THEY TOOK CROCBOT'S REMAINS WITH THEM, BUT I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT OUR OLD ENEMY MENTIONED--
THE "BUNYIP"? THAT'S A MYTHOLOGICAL MONSTER FROM ABORIGINE CULTURE!
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST CROCBOT'S DAMAGED MIND MALFUNCTIONING AND HALLUCINATING!*
LET'S HOPE SO!*
MAN, THAT WALLABOY WAS SO JEALOUS OF THE WAY BARBY WAS HITTING ON YOU, TAILS! THAT KOALA CUTIE DIGS YOU, BUDDY!
REALLY? GOSH I HOPE SO 'CAUSE I SURE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER AGAIN!
* Check Out More Awesome DFF Adventure in SONIC universe Arc #3: "Echoes of the Past"! --EDITOR.
The End



PIN-UP COLORING FUN BROUGHT TO YOU BY HARVEY "HARVO" MERCADOOCASIO!


SONIC & TAILS
I'M SURE GLAD WE'RE NOT CHASING THE EVIL WIZARD IXIS NAUGUS AROUND THE PLANET BY BOAT, SONIC! THIS OCEAN LOOKS REAL ROUGH IF YOU ASK ME!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WAVES, TAILS! IN TWO SECONDS WE MIGHT REGRET TAKIN' MY BI-PLANE!
SONIC
WINGED Victory
WHY?
CHECK OUT THOSE CLOUDS UP AHEAD! FROM THE NASTY LOOK OF 'EM, OUR HANDS ARE GONNA BE FULL JUST FLYIN' THESE UNFRIENDLY SKIES!
MAKE NO MISTAKE, LI'L BUDDY! WE'RE DEFINITELY IN FOR--
TOTAL TURBULENCE
KARL BOLLERS • Writer
STEVEN BUTLER • Penciler
JIM AMASH • Inker
FRANK GAGLIARDO • Colorist
JEFF POWELL • Letterer
JUSTIN GABRIE • Editor


THIS GADGET MY UNCLE CHUCK HOOKED UP TO THE CONTROL PANEL BEFORE WE LEFT MOBOTROPOLIS IS SUPPOSED TO TRACK IXIS...
...BUT THE TRAIL SUDDENLY SCATTERS FOR NO REASON!
HOLY HAYWIRE! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH IT, SONIC?
COULD BE THE BAD WEATHER CAUSIN' SOME KINDA INTER-FERENCE!
CURSE THAT HEDGEHOG AND HIS FLEDGLING FOX OF A COMPANION! THEY DO NOT REALIZE THEY HAVE AT LAST FOUND ME!
I NEVER SUSPECTED THEY'D FASHION A DEVICE CAPABLE OF DETECTING THE IONIC RESIDUE LEFT IN THE AIR BY MY SORCERY!
BAH! NO MATTER! MY MAGICAL TRANSFORMATION INTO A CLOUD-BEING HAS CONFUSED THEIR FEEBLE INSTRU-MENTS LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO--
--THIS!
WHUMP

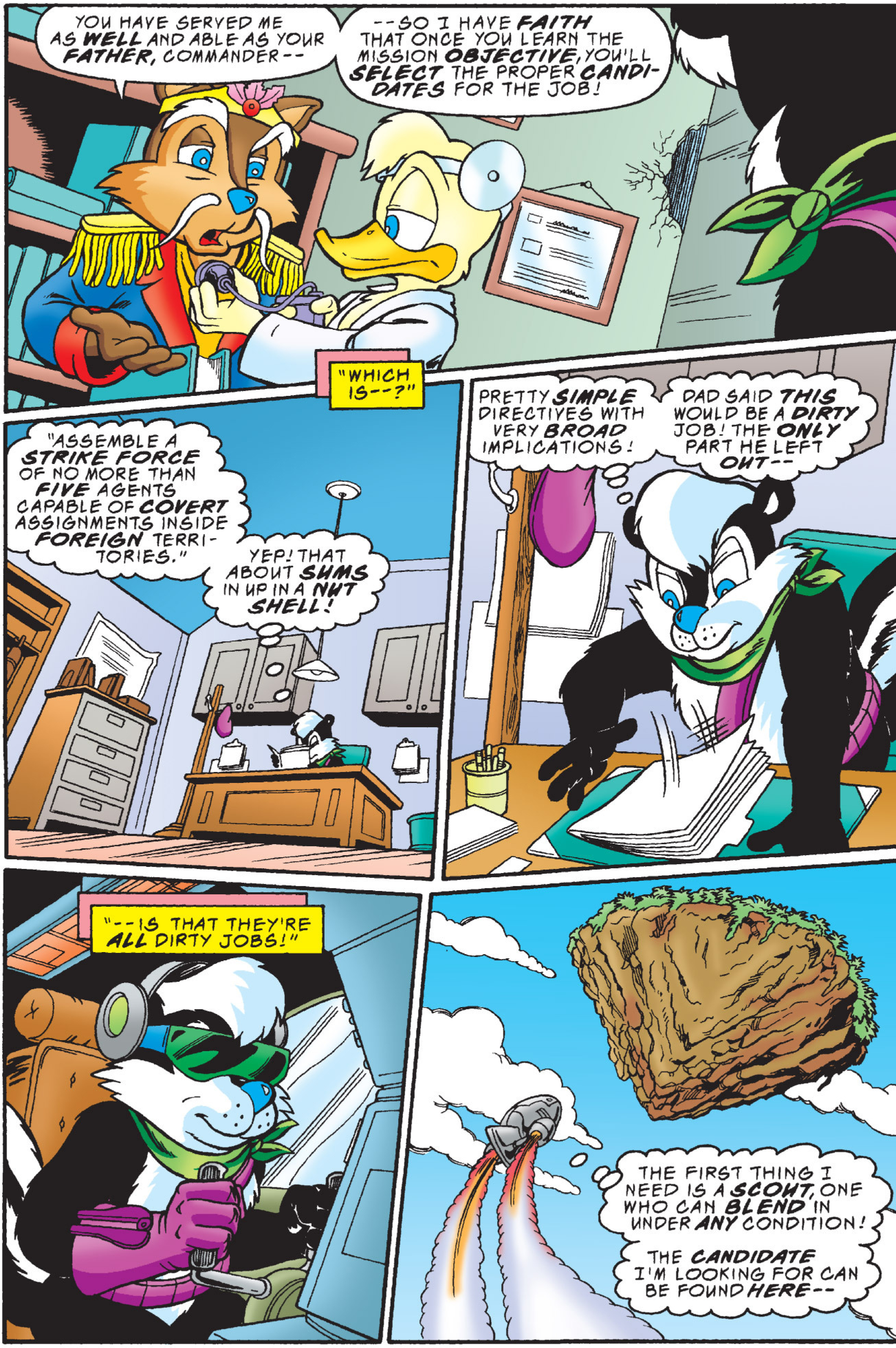

VREEEEOWWWW
SONIC
AAAAHHHH!!
COOL IT, SONIC!
TIME TO--
--GET A--
--GRIP--
--OR WE'RE BOTH TOAST!
SPLUSH

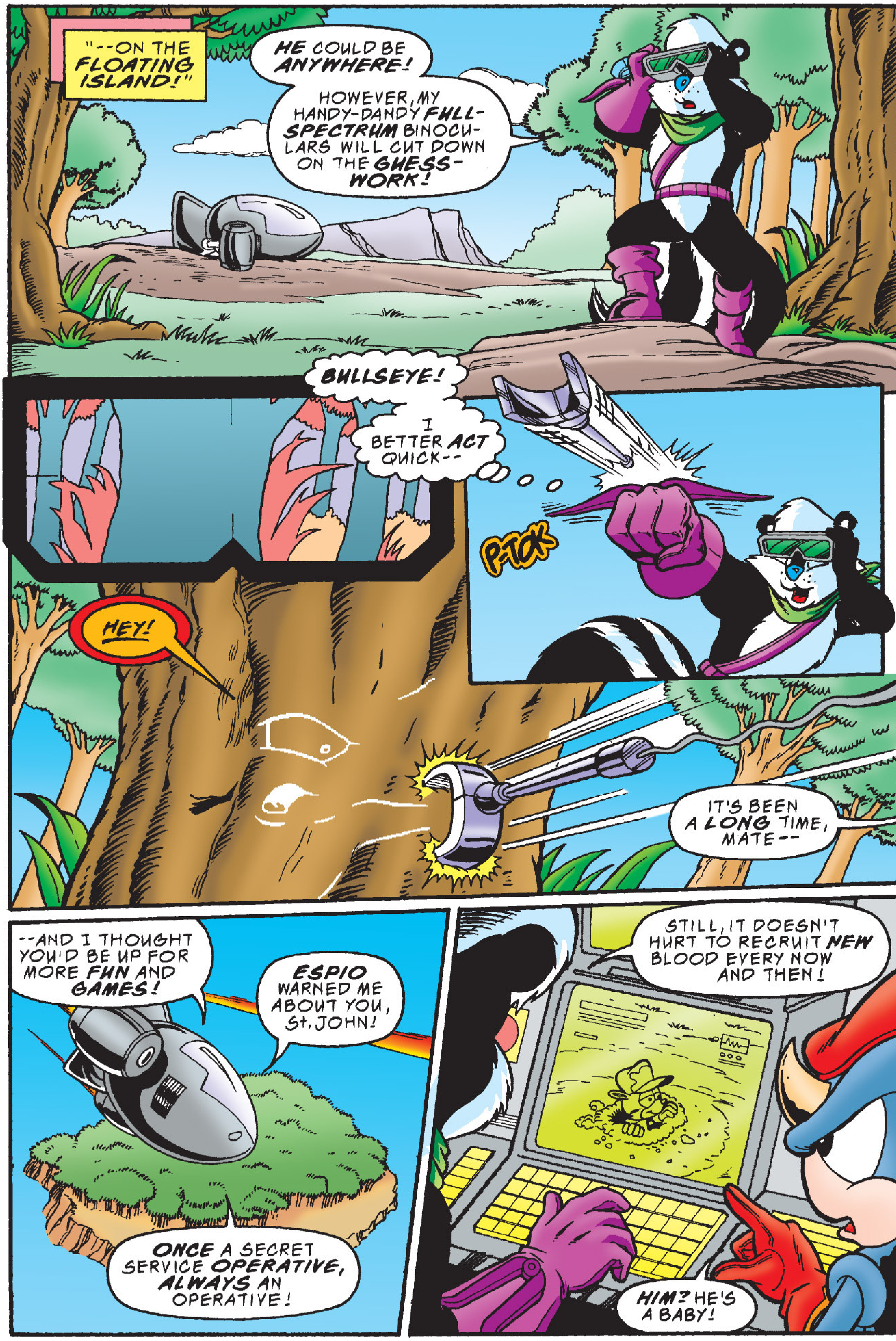


WHAT? IT'S THAT HEDGEHOG! HE STILL LIVES!
GULP
FWOOOSH
YOU DID IT, SONIC!
I GUESS I DID, TAILS...
...AND LOOK--WITH THOSE CLOUDS ALL CLEARED UP, I SEE LAND!
YEAH, SONIC?
AND TAILS?
WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF ADVENTURES ARE IN STORE FOR US THERE?
TO BE CONTINUED...

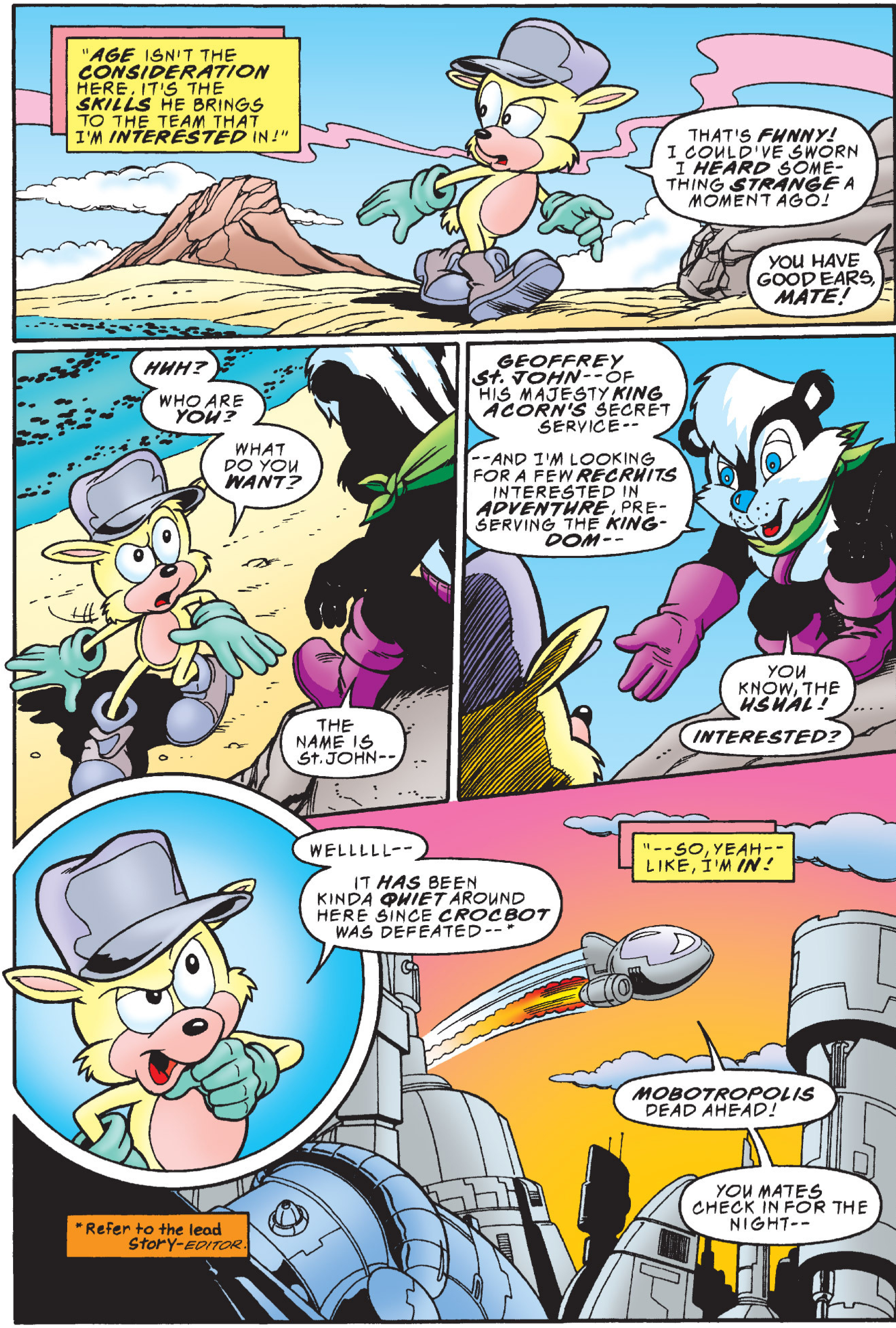

KA-THOOM
THAT WAS CUTTING IT CLOSE!
YOU ALL RIGHT, FLEMING?
DEACTIVATING ROBOTNIK'S LEFTOVER DEATH-TRAP IS ONE THING!
BEING ABLE TO CARRY OUT ACTUAL FIELD ASSIGN-MENTS IS ANOTHER!
I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS, SON!
YOU STILL HAVE PLENTY ON THE BALL, FLEMING!
NOT ANYMORE!
I'VE BEEN WITH THE SECRET SERVICE SINCE YOUR DADDY WAS IN CHARGE--


--AND NOW IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MY TIME HAS COME AS WELL!
Tales of the Freedom Fighters
Presents:
GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE
WITH THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT FLEMING FROM THE SERVICE--
--IT BEHOOVES YOU TO RECRUIT SOME VERY SPECIAL AGENTS!
THERE ARE NEW ENEMIES AND THREATS FACING THE REALM, AND WE NEED TO BE READY FOR THEM!
I'M WELL AWARE OF IT, SIRE!
IS THERE ANYONE IN PARTICULAR YOU HAVE IN MIND?
Ken Penders - writes, inks, colors
Art Mawhinney - draws
Jeff Powell - letters
Justin Gabrie - edits


YOU HAVE SERVED ME AS WELL AND ABLE AS YOUR FATHER, COMMANDER--
--SO I HAVE FAITH THAT ONCE YOU LEARN THE MISSION OBJECTIVE, YOU'LL SELECT THE PROPER CANDIDATES FOR THE JOB!
"WHICH IS--?"
"ASSEMBLE A STRIKE FORCE OF NO MORE THAN FIVE AGENTS CAPABLE OF COVERT ASSIGNMENTS INSIDE FOREIGN TERRITORIES."
YEP! THAT ABOUT SUMS IN UP IN A NUT SHELL!
PRETTY SIMPLE DIRECTIVES WITH VERY BROAD IMPLICATIONS!
DAD SAID THIS WOULD BE A DIRTY JOB! THE ONLY PART HE LEFT OUT--
"--IS THAT THEY'RE ALL DIRTY JOBS!"
THE FIRST THING I NEED IS A SCOUT, ONE WHO CAN BLEND IN UNDER ANY CONDITION!
THE CANDIDATE I'M LOOKING FOR CAN BE FOUND HERE--



"--ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!"
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
HOWEVER, MY HANDY-DANDY FULL-SPECTRUM BINOCULARS WILL CUT DOWN ON THE GUESS-WORK!
BULLSEYE!
I BETTER ACT QUICK--
P-TOK
HEY!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MATE--
--AND I THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP FOR MORE FUN AND GAMES!
ESPIO WARNED ME ABOUT YOU, St. JOHN!
ONCE A SECRET SERVICE OPERATIVE, ALWAYS AN OPERATIVE!
STILL, IT DOESN'T HURT TO RECRUIT NEW BLOOD EVERY NOW AND THEN!
HIM? HE'S A BABY!


"AGE ISN'T THE CONSIDERATION HERE. IT'S THE SKILLS HE BRINGS TO THE TEAM THAT I'M INTERESTED IN!"
THAT'S FUNNY! I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOME-THING STRANGE A MOMENT AGO!
YOU HAVE GOOD EARS, MATE!
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THE NAME IS St. JOHN--
GEOFFREY St. JOHN--OF HIS MAJESTY KING ACORN'S SECRET SERVICE--
--AND I'M LOOKING FOR A FEW RECRUITS INTERESTED IN ADVENTURE, PRE-SERVING THE KING-DOM--
YOU KNOW, THE USUAL!
INTERESTED?
WELLLLL--
IT HAS BEEN KINDA QUIET AROUND HERE SINCE CROCBOT WAS DEFEATED--*
"--SO, YEAH--LIKE, I'M IN!
MOBOTROPOLIS DEAD AHEAD!
YOU MATES CHECK IN FOR THE NIGHT--
*Refer to the lead story-EDITOR


"--WHILE I TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS!"
HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE, LUV?
OH, GEOFFREY!
DO COME IN!
WORKING ON ANYTHING IMPORTANT?
JUST COORDINATING VARIOUS WORK DETAILS ON REBUILDING THE CITY.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A SWATBOT COULD DO!
PERHAPS, BUT PRINCESS SALLY NEEDED SOMEBODY TO DO IT AND I WAS AVAILABLE!
WHY? WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
TAKE THIS, AND SHOW UP AT THE ARMORY TOMORROW MORNING!
WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCESS?
DON'T WORRY! I'LL SQUARE THINGS WITH HER!
THREE DOWN! JUST ONE MORE TO GO!
FINALLY A WEARY GEOFFREY DECIDES TO CALL IT A DAY...
I'M SURE AFTER A BIT OF REST, IT'LL HIT ME LIKE A BOMB OVER WHO THE LAST OPERATIVE SHOULD BE!
NEXT ISSUE: SPY SCHOOL!